Letters to the Editor

Clean Up the Arena

We hear so much about providing another skating rink for the children, because of the overcrowded conditions of the present one, and I am all in favor of building suitable and adequate accommodation for the children's enjoyment; but perhaps it would be more advisable to provide funds to hire competent help for the proper supervision of the present skating rink before we contribute to the creation of another hazard to our children's well being which, in my opinion, is exactly what the present arena constitutes.

I make this observation on account of the latest "incident" at the arena which involved my 11-year-old son. In short, he was set upon by a number of teen-age youths, who dragged him across the floor when he tried to escape, and the final outcome was his finger was stepped on by one of the boy's skates, and severely cut—as a result of which we had to take him to the emergency ward when he came home and get it stitched.

These boys used one of the small rooms for their escapades and offered a hockey stick, free, as bait to get the younger boys in there. Why aren't these rooms locked and why isn't there adequate staff there to supervise, especially when it is a well-known fact that the place is overcrowded?

It seems to me that if the present staff can't manage the overflow of children, and particularly the older boys, they would be as well to have an age limit and special skating times in order to reduce the number of children present at each session. They must be making the profit, with the increased number of children, to hire more staff.

Can't we even send our children for an afternoon's paid enjoyment without them being set upon?

DOROTHY E. MYERS.

3470 Veteran Avenue.

Imaginary Dangers

The editorial on Wednesday morning regarding the capital region plan refers to the Town Planning Statute. This statute now has been repealed, and town and regional planning provisions have been included in the Municipal Act.

A careful study of the specific matters dealt with in the plan, together with a knowledge of the provisions of the Municipal Act relating to such matters, will show that the dangers referred to by Mayor Scurrah and others are generally more imaginary than real. A thorough, or even superficial, acquaintance with the contents of the act, as well as the details of the plan, would prevent such misunderstandings from developing.

For example, fears were expressed during and after the CPAC meeting on Monday night that the plan might result in people losing control over their own land. It can be stated quite definitely that a plan does not add in the slightest degree to the powers already in existence. A planning board can not acquire, or restrict the use of, any land, and a council is not given any more power to do so than it possesses and exercises in its present day conduct of municipal management. All such powers, including those of expropriation and the necessary provision for arbitration, are conferred on a municipality by the act, and apparently, up to now, they have been found satisfactory to the various people concerned therewith.

To deal with all the statutory provisions, especially those imposing controls and limitations would require a letter of inordinate length. I can only say therefore that they do exist and can be found if looked for.

J. H. DOUGHTY-DAVIES, PEng., MTPIC,
(Formerly provincial regional planning director).

2654 MacDonald Drive.

Circus Well Done

I was absolutely disgusted at the report in Wednesday's Colonist of the Barnum and Bailey circus television showing, as I thought it very well done. I didn't see it all, as I had to go out, but the elephants and horses, and trapeze act nobody could grumble at, or scoff.

When I was at Torquay I saw their procession there, and there was nothing between me and the elephants, only the sea to jump in; no crowds there, and the keepers seemed to be miles away, so I was particularly interested in the showing.

LILLIAN WALLER.

The Aberdeen Hotel.

'Bewildering Contradiction'

The recent official, but incomplete, statement by the Central Saanich council is worthy of a reply. The council no doubt believes that its statement is correct but the flat contradiction between the public statements by reeve and council as to the facts in this case creates a bewildering situation.

On Jan. 21 last the following statement by the reeve at a council meeting was reported in the press: "The reeve told council that when the municipality asked this planning board for a price to draw up a zoning plan for Central Saanich the board wanted $7,000 for the Brentwood area alone. Ashworth and Associates have done the whole municipality, and have drafted three bylaws at a cost of only $2,000."

The Reeve made the same statement to me personally; therefore I cannot imagine that he was misquoted.

The council's statement published last week is as follows: "The Capital Region Planning Board at no time asked for any recompense for their work. They have not asked for $7,000, neither has this or any other amount been paid by your council for the survey or maps."

The flat contradiction between these two statements is undeniable and alarming. The reeve says that "the board wanted $7,000" and the council says the "board at no time . . . asked for $7,000." It is not difficult to understand why our ratepayers are confused.

Until a final settlement of this matter is stated by the board, this one-sided council statement should not be accepted without reservations. As one of the municipal taxpayers I certainly hope that the council's statement is the correct one.

SIDNEY PICKLES.

1450 Mount Newton Crossroad.

Farm Breeds Rats In Rat-Free Alberta

EDMONTON, Alta. (UPI)—A special kind of rat took the spotlight in the Alberta legislature yesterday.

The animal is known as the mura and is being commercially bred in Alberta for its multi-colored fur.

The subject first came up when Liberal Mike Maccagno asked how the muras got into Alberta when such an effort to keep the province rat-free is being waged.

Agriculture Minister L. C. Halmrast reported that a mura farm located east of Red Deer will pelt out its entire stock next month. Liberal members asked for immediate restriction of the species and legislation to stop future breeding.

Halmrast conceded that the muras are similar to the menacing Norway rats and said he was sure the animals were being kept in escape-proof cages.

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Attack on Premier Cheered

Nasser Calls Iraqi Communist Stooge

DAMASCUS, Syria (Reuters)—President Nasser of the United Arab Republic charged Wednesday that Iraqi Premier Abdul Kerim Kassem is a stooge of international communism working against Arab unity.

In his first attack on Kassem and Iraqi Communists, Nasser told cheering crowds in front of the government guest palace here that he is fighting to keep the Arab world independent of any spheres of influence.

More than 1,000 students demonstrated before Nasser spoke, shouting "down with Kassem's black epoch" and "down with communism and opportunism."

Nasser said Iraqi Communists are not of the Arab people, but "are stooges, not working for the good of their country, but for foreigners."

In Cairo, an official government spokesman said the U.A.R. is considering the situation created by Tuesday's expulsion of nine U.A.R. diplomats from Iraq. But observers understood that no move will be made to break off diplomatic relations.

★ ★ ★

PRESIDENT NASSER

In Baghdad, an Iraqi government spokesman refused to speculate on future diplomatic relations with the U.A.R. He said the diplomats were expelled for suspicious activities in connection with the Mosul revolt.

Baghdad newspapers denounced "the plotter Nasser" as responsible for the revolt that broke out this week in northern Iraq and alleged he had sent arms consignments from Syria to rebel headquarters at Mosul.

Meanwhile, as Baghdad claimed complete victory in the Mosul revolt with rebel leader Abdul Wahab Shawaf and 59 other army officers reported executed, Iraq refugees continued to arrive in Syria Wednesday.

"We left Mosul to flee from Communist terrorism," one refugee was quoted as telling the U.A.R.'s government-sponsored Middle East news agency. "A Communist comcommittee has been formed to liquidate nationalist elements."

Iraqi demonstrators hanged Nasser in effigy Wednesday in Rashid Street, Baghdad's main thoroughfare.

The people gave a martyr's funeral to Kamel Kazangi, a Red leader killed by nationalists in Mosul.

★ ★ ★

Premier's Opponents

London Predicts Big Iraqi Purge

LONDON (UPI) — Diplomatic sources here yesterday predicted a major purge of the Iraqi army and the government to remove all potential opponents of Premier Abdul Karim Kassen, including anti-Communists and Nasserites.

They said pressure also was building up in Baghdad for the speedy execution of Gen. Abdul Salam Aref, former number two man in the Kassem regime now under sentence of death for plotting against the premier.

Reports from Iraq said anti-government bitterness by army field commanders in the provinces was a major factor in the current revolt. They said the commanders were jealous of the quick promotions given officers closer to the capital and in the personal confidence of Kassem.

In addition, the reports said, the field commanders disapproved of the government's failure to co-operate with President Gamal Abdel Nasser's United Arab Republic.

The already strained relations between Iraq and the UAR were expected to deteriorate still further in the wake of Tuesday's expulsion of the bulk of the UAR dimplomats from Iraq.

Highway Millions Earmarked

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—A $365,000,000 highway budget for the next two years was approved by the Washington State senate 45-0.

The budget probably will be financed with no increase in the state gas tax. It calls for the state to spend $210,000,000 this year for construction in highway projects, including $156,000,000 for new projects.

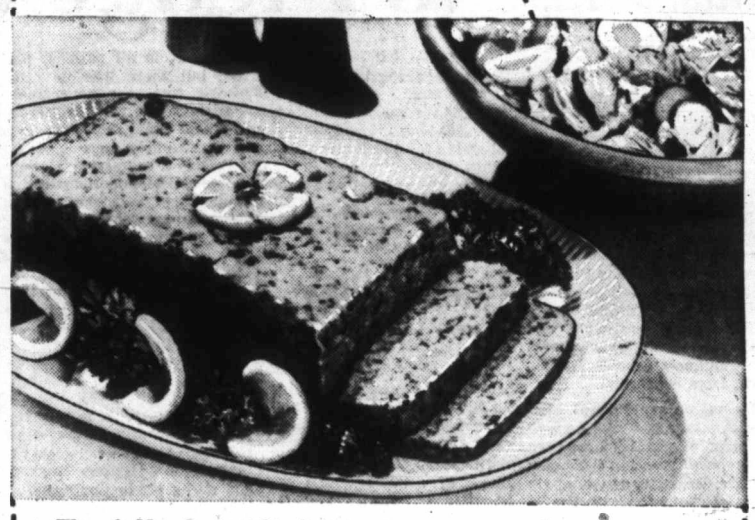
Ottawa Buys 'Royal' Ranch

OTTAWA (CP) — The federal government paid $125,000 Wednesday for 116-acre Fairholme Ranch in Banff National Park at which Princess Margaret spent three days last year.

HISTORIC UNIVERSITY

The University of Louvain in Belgium was founded in 1426.

Simple Salmon



There's New Instant Starlac in this tasty change-of-menu! That means extra proteins. In fact *all* the proteins, B vitamins and calcium of whole milk with just the water and the fat removed. And why not keep a jug of ice-cold Starlac mixed and ready for drinking. It's the *first* instant powder that really tastes like milk!

NEW STARLAC RECIPE

1- 1 lb. can salmon (2 cups) (or 2 cups cooked, flaked salmon)
2 cups soft bread crumbs
1 egg, well beaten
½ cup salmon liquid
¼ cup New Instant Starlac
2 tbsps. minced parsley
2 tbsps. minced onion
1 tsp. salt
Few grains cayenne pepper
2 tbsps. melted butter
2 tbsps. lemon juice

Drain salmon, reserving liquid. Remove skin from salmon: then flake, add crumbs and well beaten egg. To ½ cup salmon liquid add Starlac and mix; add to salmon mixture with remaining ingredients. Turn into buttered loaf pan about 7½" x 3½" x 3", smoothing top. Place in pan of hot water and bake in moderate oven (375 deg. F.) for 40 mins.

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